

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USICA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE

USINT HAVANA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMCONSUL BUKAVU

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION USNATO

AMEMBASSY MASERU

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AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY VICTORIA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMEMBASSY PRAIA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

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CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY, BRUSSELS AND PARIS FOR MOOSE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT:DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING, JUNE 13, 1978

FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL, UNCORRECTED EXCERPT FROM THE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING. IF NECESSARY OFFICIAL
VERSION WILL FOLLOW:

SPOKESMAN: NEXT MONDAY AFTERNOON AT 2:00 O'CLOCK SECRETARY
OF STATE VANCE WILL GO UP TO THE HILL TO THE HOUSE
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST
BY THE MEMBERS OF THAT COMMITTEE. HE WILL DELIVER A BRIEF
STATEMENT MONDAY THE 19TH AT 2:00 P.M. HE WILL DELIVER
A BRIEF STATEMENT WHICH WILL BE OPEN TO THE PRESS, BUT
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THEN THAT SESSION WILL BE CLOSED THEREAFTER.

Q: DO YOU HAVE THE SUBJECT MATTER?

A: I THINK THIS IS IN THE RESPONSE TO SENATOR MCGOVERN
AND OTHER PEOPLE WHO HAVE SOME QUESTIONS TO ASK ABOUT U.S.
POLICY IN AFRICA INITIALLY ASKED THE SECRETARY TO PRESENT
EVIDENCE ON THE CLAIMS OF CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE SHABA
BANK AND HE SAID NO, HE SAID THE CIA WOULD PROVIDE THE
FACTS AND YOU KNOW WHAT HAS HAPPENED SINCE THEN.

WILL THIS SESSION INVOLVE PRESENTING THE KIND OF MATERIAL
THAT SOME MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WANTED IN THE FIRST PLACE?

A: I DON'T KNOW SPECIFICALLY WHAT HE WILL SAY. THE
STATEMENT IS STILL BEING WORKED ON THIS WEEK. BUT IT IS
MY UNDERSTANDING HE IS AVAILABLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM
THE COMMITTEE. BUT AS TO THE SPECIFIC NATURE OF THOSE
QUESTIONS, I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY WILL BE.

Q: LAST NIGHT IN HAVANNA CUBAN PRESIDENT CASTRO INTER-
VIEWED WITH SEVERAL REPORTERS. AMONG OTHER THINGS HE

SAID THAT ON MAY 19TH, TWO DAYS AFTER A MEETING WITH THE U.S. HEAD OF THE INTEREST SECTION, LYLE LANE, HE RECEIVED A REPLY FROM THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT EXPRESSING FROM SECRETARY VANCE HIS APPRECIATION AT WHAT CASTRO HAD SAID AND MAKING CERTAIN OTHER REMARKS.

CAN YOU CONFIRM TO US THAT THIS MESSAGE WAS FROM SECRETARY VANCE AND CAN YOU TELL US WHAT IT SAID?

A: I WILL TAKE THAT QUESTION.

Q: COULD I JUST ADD AN AMPLIFICATION TO THAT PARTICULAR QUESTION? THERE SEEMS TO BE AN INDICATION THAT THAT MESSAGE ACTUALLY WAS SENT PRIOR TO MR. CASTRO'S MEETING
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WITH MR. LANE.

AND WAS THERE A MEETING BY A U.S. GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL IN NEW YORK WITH MR. RODRIQUEZ, THE CUBAN VICE PRESIDENT, ON OR ABOUT MAY 18TH OR 19TH, IN WHICH COMMENTS WERE MADE PRAISING OR EXPRESSING APPRECIATION OF THE CUBAN ROLE IN VIS-AVIS THE SHABA BUSINESS?

A: I WILL TAKE ALL OF THOSE QUESTIONS.

Q: IN THE INTERVIEW, MR. CASTRO IS QUOTED AS HAVING SAID HE -- DENOUNCED AS -- QUOTE -- ABSOLUTE COMPLETE LIES -- UNQUOTE -- THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S CLAIMS TO HAVE EVIDENCE OF -- QUOTE -- RECENT -- UNQUOTE -- CUBAN AID TO THE KATANGANS.

IF YOU WILL RECALL, IT WAS ON MAY 19TH THAT YOU VOLUNTEERED THAT IT IS NOW OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE INSURGENTS IN SHABA PROVINCE HAD BEEN TRAINED RECENTLY BY CUBANS.

WHAT IS YOUR RESPONSE TO MR. CASTRO'S CHARGE THAT WHAT YOU SAID WAS A COMPLETE, ABSOLUTE TOTAL LIE?

A: I STAND ON WHAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN SAYING HERE.

Q: AS YOU KNOW, THE GOVERNMENT'S VERSION IS NOT ACCEPTED AS CONCLUSIVE BY SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE.

DO YOU HAVE ANY FEELING THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS UNDER ANY OBLIGATION TO BE MORE EXPLICIT ABOUT WHAT ITS EVIDENCE IS?

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A: I THINK HODDING DEALT WITH THIS QUESTION YESTERDAY. I HEAR YOUR CONCERNS, BUT AS OF THE MOMENT I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO DETAIL ANY FURTHER FOR YOU.

Q: TOM, IS THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND THE WHITE HOUSE WORKING OFF THE SAME DATA BASE, OR WHATEVER YOU WANT TO CALL IT?

A: SO FAR AS I KNOW.

Q: THE QUESTION IS, WERE YOU INSTRUCTED TO MAKE THAT STATEMENT BY THE WHITE HOUSE?

A: I AM NOT GOING TO GET INTO HOW THAT STATEMENT CAME TO BE MADE.

Q: WELL, IT IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE MR. CASTRO IS ALLEGING HERE THAT THIS WHOLE THING WAS A CONCOCTION FROM MR. BRZEZINSKI'S OFFICE.

A: I REALLY CAN'T GET INTO THAT.

Q: TOM, WHEN THE WHITE HOUSE GAVE YOU THIS INFORMATION ABOUT RECENT TRAINING, DID IT DEFINE "RECENT" IN A TIME-FRAME -- DAYS, WEEKS, MONTHS?

A: IT DID NOT, AS I RECALL, BUT AS I THINK I RECALL FROM

ONE OF MY PAST BRIEFINGS HERE, I THINK IT WAS MEANT TO DRAW A DISTINCTION BETWEEN SOMETHING WHICH MAY HAVE HAPPENED A YEAR AGO, OR THAT FAR AGO.

Q: SO "RECENT" MEANS THEN LESS THAN A YEAR AGO.

A: YES.

Q: COULD YOU SAY NOW, TOM, THAT THERE IS AGREEMENT AT THE UNCLASSIFIED

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TOP LEVELS OF BOTH STATE AND THE WHITE HOUSE THAT THE CUBANS HAD ENGAGED IN RECENT TRAINING OF THE KATANGANS BEFORE THE INVASION OF SHABA?

A: THAT IS MY UNDERSTANDING, YES.

Q: BUT "RECENT" MEANS SOME TIME WITHIN THE PAST YEAR.

A: THAT IS MY UNDERSTANDING.

Q: "RECENT" MEANS WITHIN WHAT TIMEFRAME -- WHAT TIMEFRAME
ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, WITHIN THE PAST YEAR?

A: I DON'T WANT TO QUANTIFY EXACTLY WHAT, HOW MANY DAYS
"RECENT" MEANS, BECAUSE I AM JUST NOT AWARE OF THE PRE-
CISE QUANTIFICATION ON THE THING.

I THINK I SAID THAT IT WAS EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE IN-
CURSION INTO SHABA.

Q: TOM, EXCUSE ME, LATER HODDING SAID THAT THE TRAINING
-- AND I THINK I AM RIGHT IF I QUOTE HIM -- LED UP TO THE
INVASION, WHICH COULD MEAN 24 HOURS JUST BEFORE THEY LEFT.

A: I DON'T THINK THIS IS FRUITFUL BECAUSE I DON'T HAVE
THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO ME THAT COULD QUANTIFY
EXACTLY HOW MANY DAYS, HOURS, MINUTES, SECONDS, WHEN ALL
THIS ACTIVITY WAS TAKING PLACE. CHRISTOPHER

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